

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: US ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

REF: ROME 14912

1. DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED VARIOUS PUBLICATIONS WHICH LA REPUBBLICA USED AS BACKGROUND FOR ITS SEPT 11 ARTICLE (REFTEL). COPIES POUCHED TO EMBASSY.

2. CONGRESSMAN RYAN'S VIEWS ON US POLICY TOWARD THE PCI ARE CONTAINED IN A HIRC REPORT DATED JUNE 1976 AND ENTITLED "ASSESSING THE NEW POLITICAL TRENDS - DUBLIN, 1976". IN A SECTION ON MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS, CONGRESSMAN RYAN REFERS TO AND QUOTES AN EARLIER DOCUMENT, HIS TRIP REPORT OF LAST YEAR, WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY THE HIRC IN OCTOBER 1975 UNDER THE TITLE "NATO -- PRESSURES FROM THE SOUTHERN TIER, REPORT OF A STUDY MISSION TO EUROPE, AUGUST 5-27, 1976". THE KEY PARAGRAPH FROM RYAN'S 1975 REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: CLEARLY, US POLICY IN ITALY MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT
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THE GROWING SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN

THE FACE OF THE CONTINUED INABILITY OF THE OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES TO MAKE ANY MEANINGFUL PROGRESS TOWARD SOLVING

ITALY'S WORSENING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS. WE CAN NO LONGER PRETEND THAT THE PCI DOES NOT EXIST, OFFICIALLY. THE ATTITUDE OF THE PCI TOWARD THE UNITED STATES JUST MIGHT BE INFLUENCED TO SOME EXTENT BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PCI. THIS POSSIBILITY AT LEAST DESERVES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. A LONG, HARD, HONEST AND FRESH LOOK SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE PCI TO DETERMINE THEIR TRUE DEGREE OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE CPSU. END QUOTE.

3. IN AN APPENDIX TO HIS 1975 REPORT, CONGRESSMAN RYAN IDENTIFIES HIS FOREIGN CONTACTS FROM ALL STOPS ON HIS ITINERARY, INCLUDING ITALY. RYAN DOES NOT ATTRIBUTE BY NAME TO ANY OF HIS INTERLOCUTORS THE VIEWS OR OPINIONS WHICH HE DESCRIBES, BUT HE DOES IDENTIFY THEIR ORIGIN IN CERTAIN MINISTRIES OR ORGANIZATIONS.

4. THE STUDY REFERRED TO IN PARA 4 OF REFTTEL IS A PRODUCT OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS'S CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE (CRS) -- A 56-PAGE ANALYSIS OF EURO-COMMUNISM WHICH FOCUSSES HEAVILY ON ITALY. ON BALANCE THE STUDY IS OBJECTIVE, BUT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS MINIMIZING THE RISKS TO WESTERN SECURITY OF PCI PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. NOTICE IS GIVEN THE READER ON THE INSIDE FRONT COVER OF THE STUDY THAT CRS WORKS SOLELY FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THE FINAL PRODUCT IS THEREFORE CLEARLY NOT RPT NOT A US GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT. STANLEY R. SLOAN, THE CRS ANALYST RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS EFFORT, UNDERTOOK HIS RESEARCH AT THE REQUEST OF CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ. ROBINSON

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